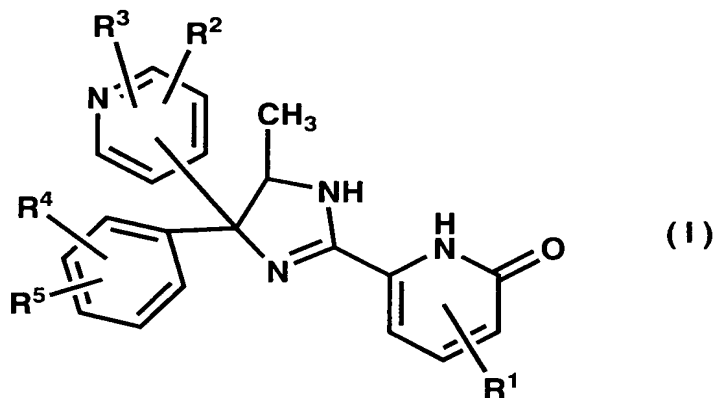
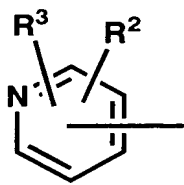


CLAIMS

1. A compound of the formula (I):

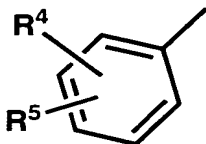


5 wherein R¹ is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or aralkyloxy; R² and R³ are each independently hydrogen, halogen or halo-lower alkyl; and R⁴ and R⁵ are each independently hydrogen or halogen, provided that when R¹ is hydrogen, a group of the formula:



10

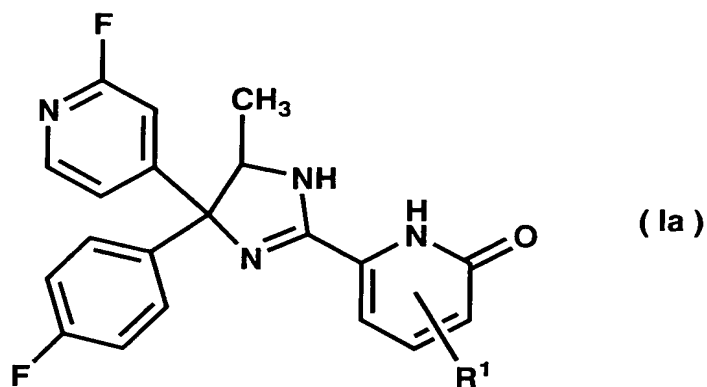
and a group of the formula:



do not represent simultaneously 6-fluoro-3-pyridyl and 4-fluorophenyl, respectively, or a salt thereof.

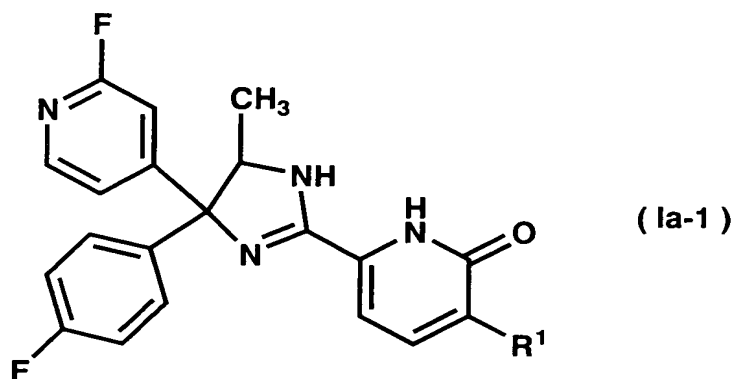
15

2. The compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the compound is a compound of the formula (Ia):



in which R¹ is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or aralkyloxy.

- 5 3. The compound as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the compound is a compound of the formula (Ia-1):



in which R¹ is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or aralkyloxy.

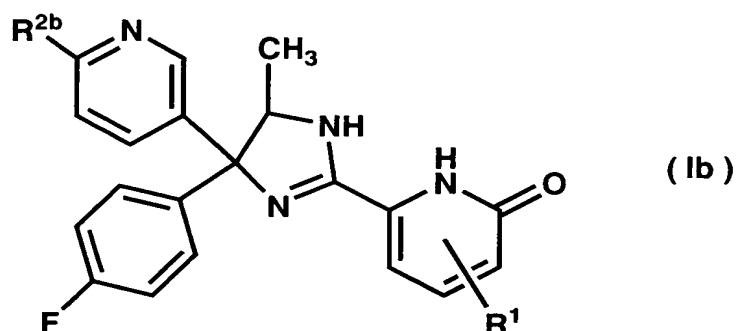
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4. The compound as claimed in Claim 2 or Claim 3, wherein R¹ is hydrogen, halogen or hydroxy.

5. The compound as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the halogen as
15 R¹ is fluorine.

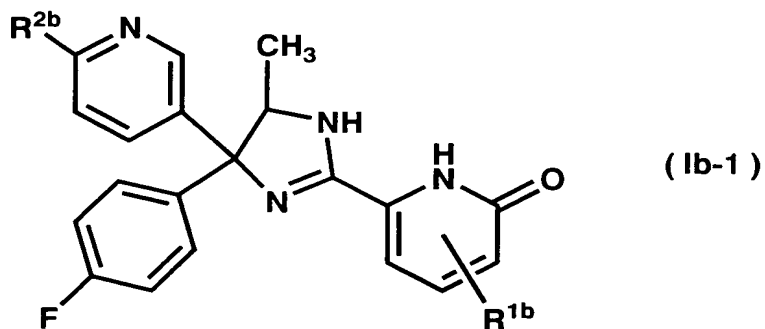
6. The compound as claimed in Claim 4, wherein R¹ is hydrogen.

7. The compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the compound is a compound of the formula (Ib):



5 in which R^1 is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or aralkyloxy; and R^{2b} is halogen or halo-lower alkyl, provided that when R^1 is hydrogen, R^{2b} is not fluorine.

10 8. The compound as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the compound is a compound of the formula (Ib-1):

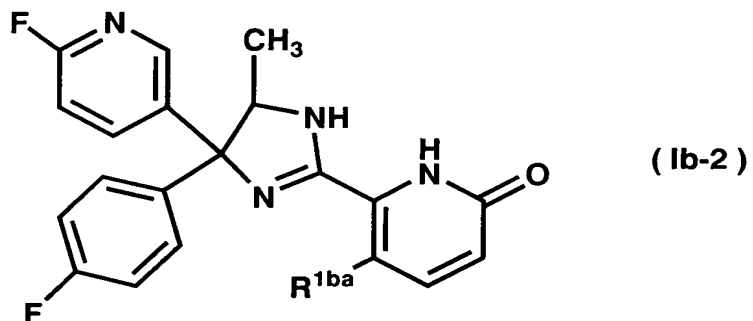


15 in which R^{1b} is halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or aralkyloxy; and R^{2b} is halogen or halo-lower alkyl.

9. The compound as claimed in Claim 8, wherein R^{2b} is fluorine or trifluoromethyl.

10. The compound as claimed in Claim 9, wherein R^{1b} is halogen or lower alkyl.

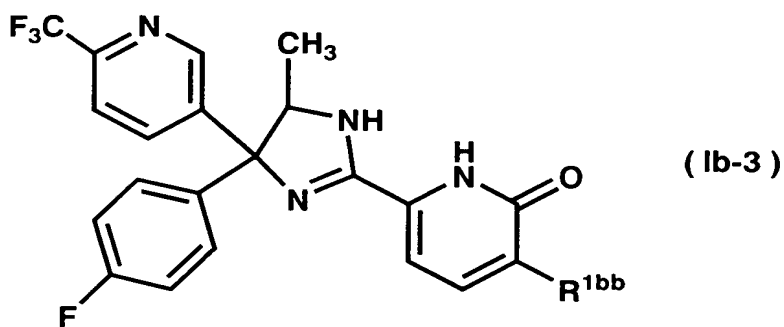
11. The compound as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the compound
5 is a compound of the formula (Ib-2):



in which R^{1ba} is halogen.

12. The compound as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the halogen
10 as R^{1ba} is fluorine.

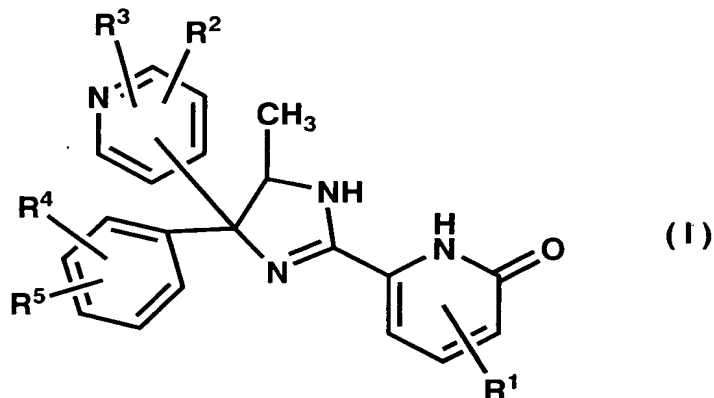
13. The compound as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the compound
is a compound of the formula (Ib-3):



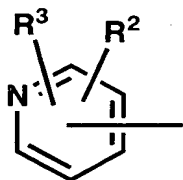
15 in which R^{1bb} is lower alkyl.

14. The compound as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the lower alkyl
as R^{1bb} is methyl.

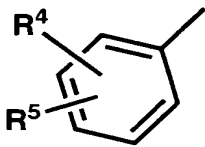
15. A process for preparing a compound of the formula (I):



wherein R^1 is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or aralkyloxy; R^2 and R^3 are each
 5 independently hydrogen, halogen or halo-lower alkyl; and R^4 and R^5 are each independently hydrogen or halogen, provided that when R^1 is hydrogen, a group of the formula:

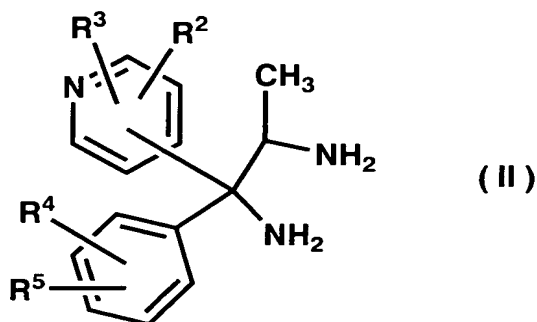


and a group of the formula:

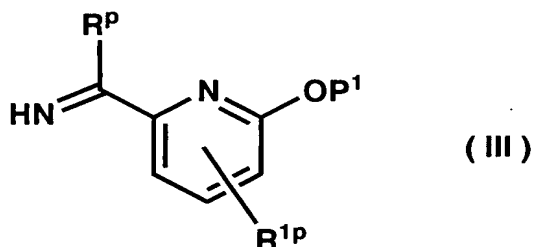


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do not represent simultaneously 6-fluoro-3-pyridyl and 4-fluorophenyl, respectively, or a salt thereof, which comprises reacting a compound of the formula (II):

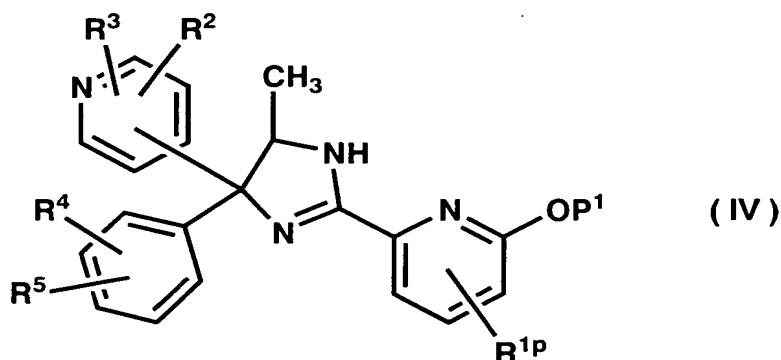


wherein R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 have each the same meaning as defined above, with an acid addition salt of a compound represented by the formula (III):



5

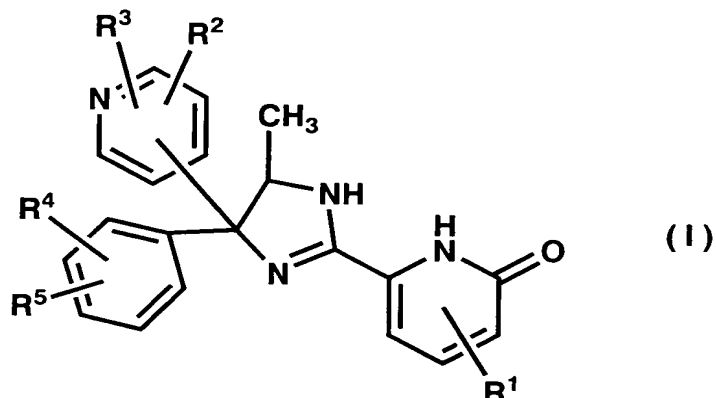
wherein P^1 is hydrogen or a hydroxy-protecting group; R^{1P} is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, aralkyloxy or optionally protected hydroxy; and R^P is amino or lower alkoxy, to produce a compound of the formula (IV):



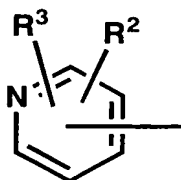
10

wherein P^1 , R^{1P} , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 have each the same meaning as defined above, and optionally removing the protecting group(s) from the compound (IV).

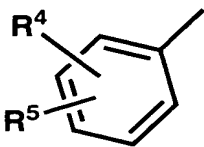
16. A process for preparing a compound of the formula (I):



wherein R^1 is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or aralkyloxy; R^2 and R^3 are each
 5 independently hydrogen, halogen or halo-lower alkyl; and R^4 and R^5 are each independently hydrogen or halogen, provided that when R^1 is hydrogen, a group of the formula:

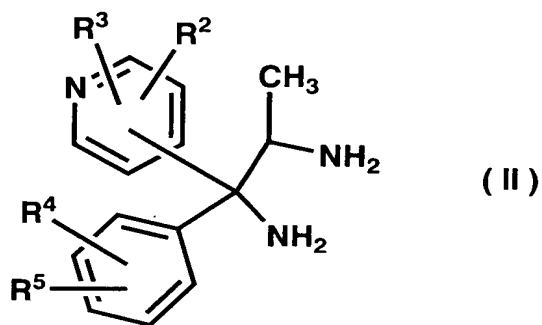


and a group of the formula:

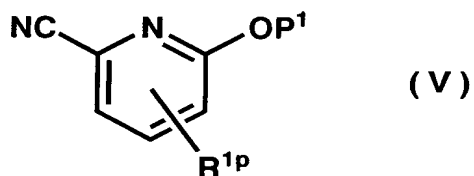


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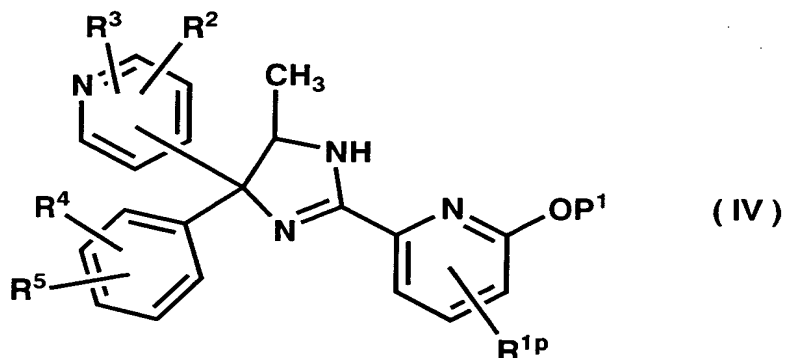
do not represent simultaneously 6-fluoro-3-pyridyl and 4-fluorophenyl, respectively, or a salt thereof, which comprises reacting a compound of the formula (II):



wherein R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 have each the same meaning as defined above, with a compound of the formula (V):

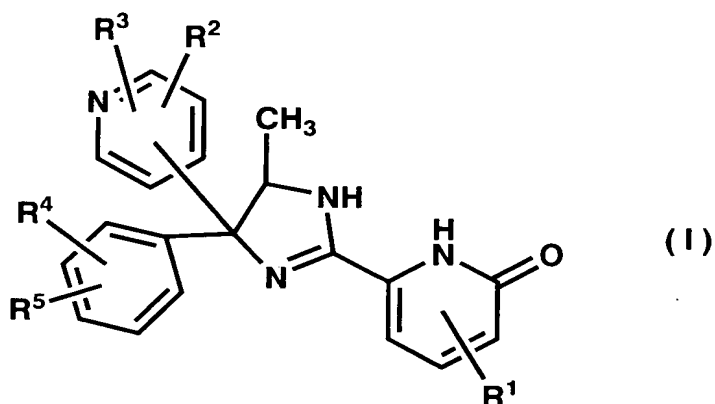


- 5 wherein P^1 is hydrogen or a hydroxy-protecting group; and R^{1p} is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, aralkyloxy or optionally protected hydroxy, to produce a compound of the formula (IV):



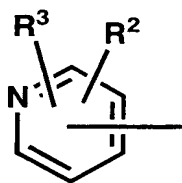
- 10 wherein P^1 , R^{1p} , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 have each the same meaning as defined above, and optionally removing the protecting group(s) from the compound (IV).

17. A process for preparing a compound of the formula (I):

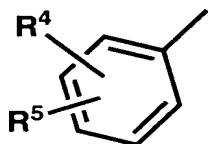


wherein R^1 is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or aralkyloxy; R^2 and R^3 are each independently hydrogen, halogen or halo-lower alkyl; and R^4 and R^5 are each independently hydrogen or halogen, provided that

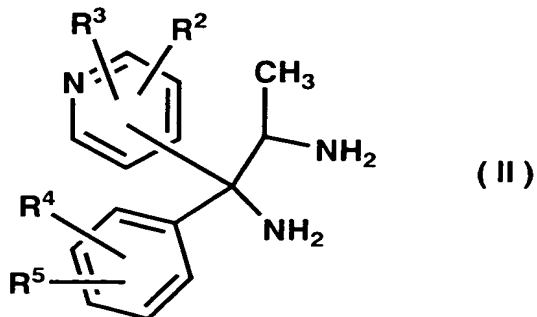
5 when R^1 is hydrogen, a group of the formula:



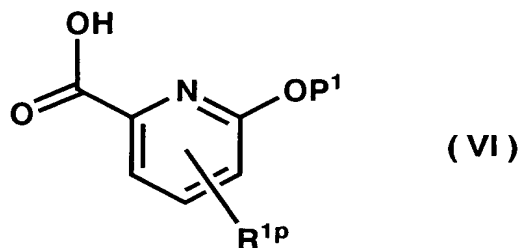
and a group of the formula:



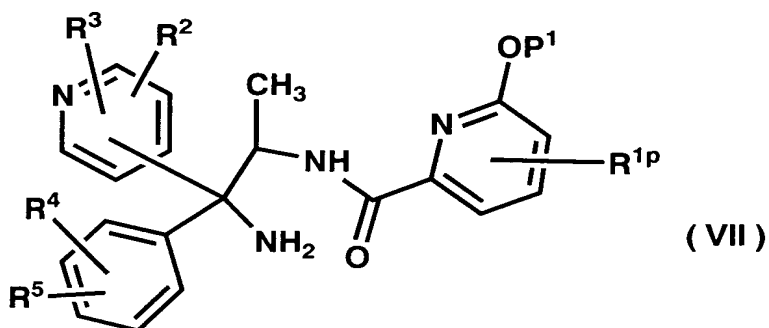
10 do not represent simultaneously 6-fluoro-3-pyridyl and 4-fluorophenyl, respectively, or a salt thereof, which comprises reacting a compound of the formula (II):



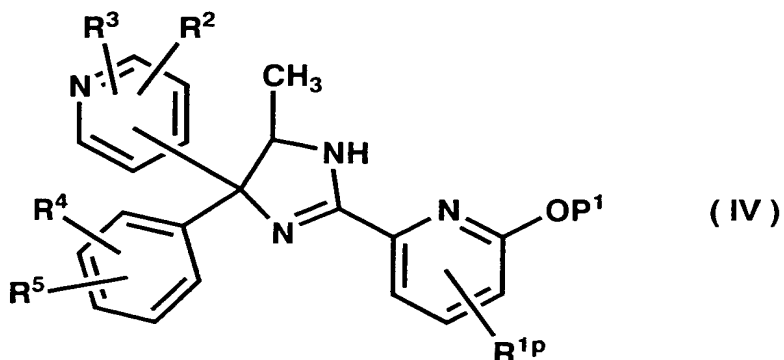
wherein R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 have each the same meaning as defined above, with a compound of the formula (VI):



wherein P^1 is hydrogen or a hydroxy-protecting group; and R^{1P} is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, aralkyloxy or optionally protected hydroxy, to produce a compound of the formula (VII):



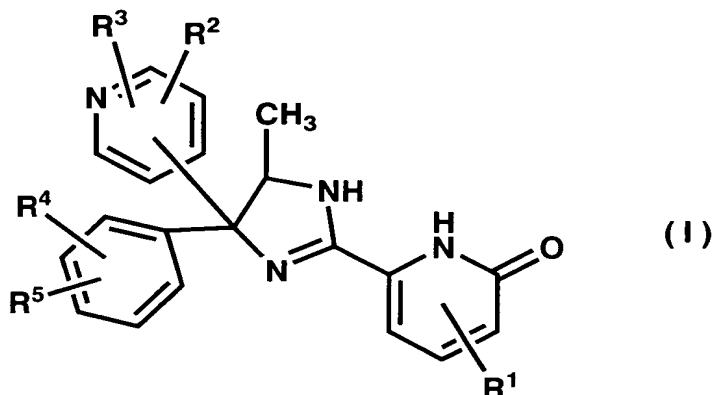
wherein P^1 , R^{1P} , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 have each the same meaning as defined above, subjecting the compound (VII) to intramolecular ring closure condensation to produce a compound of the formula (IV):



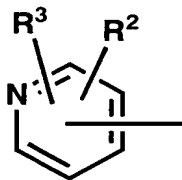
wherein P^1 , R^{1P} , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 have each the same meaning as

defined above, and optionally removing the protecting group(s) from the compound (IV).

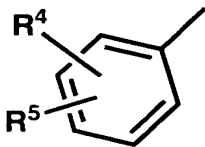
18. A neuropeptide Y receptor antagonist agent comprising a
5 compound of the formula (I):



- wherein R^1 is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or aralkyloxy; R^2 and R^3 are each independently hydrogen, halogen or halo-lower alkyl; and R^4 and
10 R^5 are each independently hydrogen or halogen, provided that when R^1 is hydrogen, a group of the formula:

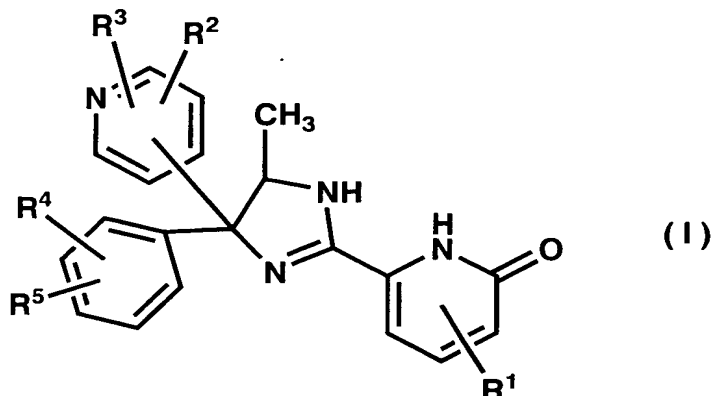


and a group of the formula:

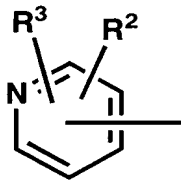


- 15 do not represent simultaneously 6-fluoro-3-pyridyl and 4-fluorophenyl, respectively, or a salt thereof as an active ingredient.

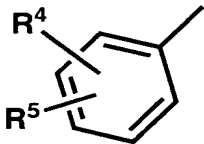
19. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of bulimia, obesity or diabetes, comprising a compound of the formula (I):



wherein R¹ is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower
 5 alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or aralkyloxy; R² and R³ are each
 independently hydrogen, halogen or halo-lower alkyl; and R⁴ and
 R⁵ are each independently hydrogen or halogen, provided that
 when R¹ is hydrogen, a group of the formula:



10 and a group of the formula:



do not represent simultaneously 6-fluoro-3-pyridyl and
 4-fluorophenyl, respectively, or a salt thereof as an active
 ingredient.